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Nixon may leave hospital soon

LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP) — Former President Richard M. Nixon probably will leave the hospital by this weekend, but it would not be advisable for him to travel to Washington for the Watergate trial for at least a month, his doctor said Monday.

However, Dr. John C. Lungren said Nixon probably could provide a written deposition in two or three weeks.

"The exact duration of how long he will be in restricted convalescent activity will depend on how he responds to treatment he is getting at the present time," Lungren said.

Asked if Nixon was strong enough to make the trip to Washington, where the trial begins Tuesday, Lungren said, "At this time I don't think he is.

The doctor said Nixon should be out of the hospital by Saturday, but will have to wear a support stocking on his left leg and avoid prolonged periods of sitting, standing or riding in a car or airplane.

Lungren said tests are continuing on the former president to determine the cause of the phlebitis, which resulted in a small blood clot moving from his stricken left leg to his right lung.

Nixon continues to suffer physical exhaustion, Lungren said, adding "I think he's mentally sharp, but physically extremely fatigued." He added that Nixon has lost five or six pounds since entering Memorial Hospital Medical Center of Long Beach a week ago.